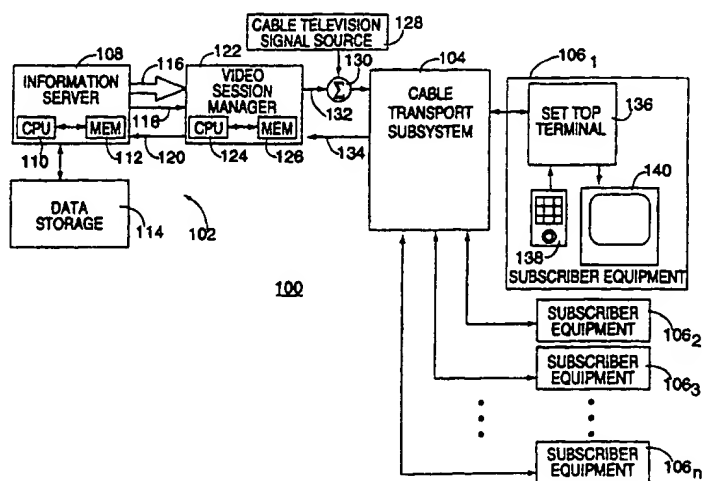




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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PROVIDING A MENU STRUCTURE FOR AN INTERACTIVE INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM



## (57) Abstract

A method and apparatus for providing an interactive menu structure within an interactive information distribution system (100). The menu structure is embodied in a combination of software, which provides a so-called navigator and a set top terminal (136) that provides certain functionality for the set top terminal. The menu structure has each menu (e.g., menu instructions, graphics and video) contained in downloadable applets (300) which are sent upon request from the service provider equipment (108) to the set top terminal for display. As such, the navigator functions are actually distributed between the service provider equipment and the subscriber's equipment (106). Such distribution provides an enjoyable, real-time interactive session that allows the user to rapidly navigate through a plethora of menus to find particular information which they desire to view.

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## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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PCT/US97/22850

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(6) :H04N 5/50, 5/445, 7/10, 7/14.

US CL :348/569, 563, 12, 13.

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 348/569, 563, 12, 13, 564, 589, 600

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5,585,866 A (MILLER ET AL.) 17 DECEMBER 1996, COL. 7, LINE 45, TO COL. 36, LINE 58.	1-27
X, P	US 5,594,509 A (FLORIN ET AL.) 14 JANUARY 1997, COL. 7, LINE 60, TO COL. 25, LINE 25.	1-27

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